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# A voice for the North



Ministry of Northern Development and Mines  
Business Plan · Doing Better for Less





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# Doing Better for Less

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## Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Business Plan — A Summary

This publication summarizes the key components of a Business Plan for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. The objectives of this plan are to improve efficiency and productivity at the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, through a results-driven business style that puts the needs of the customer first.

The ministry's business plan specifically reflects the need to reduce the size and cost of government while improving the business climate for the private sector. It also makes the ministry more accountable to Ontario taxpayers by establishing performance measures.

While protecting the services that people value the most, the Ontario Government has achieved a savings of \$5.4 billion for the 1996/97 fiscal year and met its commitment to reduce income taxes by 30 per cent over three years. The Government is also on track for a balanced budget in 2000-2001. Ontario's new business plans support these initiatives by detailing how each ministry will do better for less.





# Ministry Vision and Mission

## Vision

- to be the champion for a strong, dynamic, self-reliant North, where the people of northern Ontario and future generations live, work and do business with choice and prosperity.
- to be the champion for an economically sustainable minerals industry while maintaining its standing as a world leader.

## Mission:

- to support northerners in their ongoing dialogue with the government of Ontario.
- to develop a healthy business climate that encourages mineral investment and exploration.

## Goal:

The ministry will be recognized as the regional ministry for the North. Northerners will have an active role in both policy and decision-making, ensuring that their concerns are heard at Queen's Park. The ministry will become a broker for government services and programs to northern Ontario residents and will co-ordinate provincial activities supporting regional economic development in the North.

The ministry will support the mines and minerals industry by providing valuable information about the province's geology, focusing on areas with the greatest economic potential for mineral deposits. The ministry will also streamline and modernize the delivery and administration of Ontario's Mining Act to improve the climate for mineral investment in Ontario.

As always, the priority will be to maintain and improve the services available to clients and the public.

# Key Ministry Strategies

## **An authoritative voice for the North**

The ministry will reflect northern views and priorities within government to other ministries and central agencies, prior to decisions being made on core infrastructure and regional economic development programs.

The ministry will consult with the regional development sector, municipalities, First Nations communities, business and industry associations, making use of its field offices located in more than 30 northern communities, to identify these views and priorities.

## **Broker and catalyst**

The ministry will act, as a broker for government programs and services, using its extensive field network, and as a catalyst for economic development throughout Northern Ontario.

## **Improving the investment climate**

The ministry will encourage investment in the minerals exploration sector by fostering a healthy business climate in Ontario. This will be accomplished by reducing regulatory uncertainty, cutting red tape and lowering administrative costs, and without compromising environmental protection. Recent amendments to the Mining Act, for instance, emphasize greater corporate responsibility and self regulation in the mine closure plan review process.

## **A vital field network**

The Ministry's field network will play a vital role in fostering dialogue with northerners and the mineral sector. The Ministry will maintain its capability to provide front-line, face-to-face government services through a strong network of field offices.

# Ministry Core Businesses

## Northern Development

The ministry's core businesses for northern development are:

- policy voice for Northern Ontario;
- co-ordination of northern infrastructure; and
- regional co-ordination of Ontario government programs and services in the North.

## Policy voice for Northern Ontario

Through consultations with northerners, the ministry will identify northern issues and concerns. The ministry will ensure these are addressed in provincial policy and program decisions.

## Co-ordination of northern infrastructure

### Working with other ministries

The ministry will review other ministries' capital expenditure plans for Northern Ontario, formally representing northern priorities during the decision-making process.

### Managing the highways program

The ministry will establish priorities and manage program expenditures for the northern highways budget, balancing the need for expansion with rehabilitation, maintaining safety requirements.

## Reevaluating the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission

The ministry carries legislative responsibility for the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC). The government has directed this Crown Corporation to review its future role and the efficiency of its operations. The commission will present its recommendations for business improvements and development opportunities in the North to the government by the end of 1996.

## **Refocusing the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation**

The ministry will promote public infrastructure improvements through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), with particular attention to telecommunications, regional development and tourism. It will also foster stronger ties with other regional development partners in the North through the NOHFC.

A new and smaller board of key northern stakeholders has been appointed to the NOHFC and will further define the corporation's investment strategies. Sixty million dollars removed from the fund by the previous government has been restored and supplemented by \$5 million in interest. In addition, the government will allocate \$30 million annually to the fund. The NOHFC board is developing plans to invest \$210 million over the next four years.

## **Regional co-ordination of Ontario government programs and services**

The ministry will broker the delivery of Ontario government programs and services and co-ordinate provincial regional economic development activities in the North. The ministry will focus on improving customer service and coordinating program delivery. Closer links will be forged with complementary federal agencies and departments, such as FedNor and Industry Canada. The ministry will also shift its focus from grants allocation to strategic support for business start-up, technology diffusion, training and sectoral initiatives.

As part of Ontario's 'Open for Business' campaign, the ministry will co-ordinate support for trade and investment marketing initiated by northern communities and enterprises.



## **Mines and Minerals Sector**

Over the next five years, the Ministry will be getting back to basics by focussing on the provision of basic geological information gathering and interpretation in support of Ontario's exploration, mine development and mining sectors, and the administration of Ontario's Mining Act in a fair and consistent fashion. In doing so, the Ministry will work to eliminate barriers to growth in the mining sector, reduce the regulatory burden on the industry and work with industry to stimulate job creation.

The Ministry's core businesses for mines and minerals are:

- administration of the Mining Act
- provision of the province's geological data and mapping function

### **Administration of the Mining Act**

The ministry will provide fair management of Ontario's mining and land tenure system through a Mining Act that encourages prospecting, staking and exploration. A more efficient land disposition system will create a favourable investment climate and encourage job creation in the mining sector. In addition, the ministry will promote a one-window approach to permitting and the elimination of any duplicated government activities, to improve client service.

Consultations will continue with the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee, the Mineral Sector Advisory Council and other stakeholder associations. A Model Office project has also been launched to obtain stakeholder input into service delivery improvements.

### **Geological data and mapping function**

The ministry helps the mining industry locate new mineral deposits by collecting, analyzing and disseminating valuable information on the province's geology. It makes this up-to-date information available to the industry through publications and its computerized Earth Resources and Land Information System (ERLIS).



# Performance and accountability measures

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Core Business	Outcomes	Proposed Performance Measures
Policy voice for Northern Ontario	Ontario government policy and decision-making reflects regional input and responds to northern needs.	Analyze community development and sectoral initiatives, new business investment, job creation, and trade and investment marketing activity.

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# Performance and accountability measures

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## Core Business

## Outcomes

## Proposed Performance Measures

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Coordination of northern infrastructure

Government capital spending in Northern Ontario takes northern input into account.

Measure the effectiveness of the investment in northern infrastructure.

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A refocused NOHFC that will strategically invest in regional infrastructure, economic development, tourism enhancement, technology networks and transportation.

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Northern highways program that balances the need for expansion with maintaining, rehabilitation, and safety plans.

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# Performance and accountability measures

Core Business	Outcomes	Proposed Performance Measures
Regional coordination of Ontario government programs and services in the North	Coordinate core provincial government services and programs through a northern field network.	Measure satisfaction with integration of provincial programs and services.

Core Business	Outcomes	Proposed Performance Measures
Administration of the Mining Act	Reduced regulatory uncertainty, less red tape and lower administrative costs.	Measure the time taken to obtain new approvals for mineral development.

	The public trusts that the ministry is ensuring that mining is a safe and environmentally sensitive activity.	Measure the proportion of mining-related approvals delivered through the ministry's one-window approach.
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# Performance and accountability measures

Core Business	Outcomes	Proposed Performance Measures
Provision of geological data and mapping.	Access to information about Ontario's geology and mineral industry results in increased exploration expenditures in Ontario.	Measure the effectiveness of the information being provided to the mining industry.
	Up-to-date geological and mineral industry information through Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) publications, data on past and current exploration activities and investment opportunities.	Measure progress towards establishing and maintaining a 20-year geological mapping cycle for all mineral potential belts on a scale of 1:50,000 or greater.
	Geological, geochemical and geophysical field investigations are focused on areas with the greatest economic potential.	

To obtain further information or to comment on the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' business plan, please mail this sheet with your comments to:

**A Voice for the North**  
**Ministry of Northern Development and Mines**  
**159 Cedar Street**  
**Sudbury, Ontario**  
**P3E 6A5**

or deliver your comments to your local Ministry of Northern Development and Mines office.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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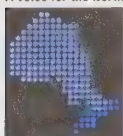
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Do you wish to receive information in future on the Ministry's business plan?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Ce document est aussi disponible en français.  
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